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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 22 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a press release issued by the Government of the Republic of Guyana on 8 January 1992, recognizing the independence and sovereignty of the 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which had constituted the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. R. INSANALLY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Press release, issued by the Government of Guyana on 8 January 1992

The Government of Guyana has formally recognized as sovereign independent States the 11 members of the Commonwealth of Independent States which, together with the Republic of Georgia, had collectively constituted the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The 11 members of the grouping are the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus (formerly Byelorussia), the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation (Russia), the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

The republics signed the ALMA-ATA Declaration on 21 December 1991, formally creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. Furthermore, there were certain compelling factors relevant to the individual members of the Commonwealth, which indicated that each of them had acquired the real personality of a State: besides receiving the concurrence of the populace on the desirability of declaring their independence, each Republic had a defined territory, a population, a Government independent of each other, which was exercising effective control of its respective territorial space, and the administrative capacity to enter into legal and diplomatic relations with other States. Under these circumstances, it was likely that each of these republics would take its place on the international stage within the community of nations. Accordingly, recognition to the republics as sovereign independent States was therefore the logical course of action to take, the Foreign Ministry added.